

KASAMATOS



KAGSAMA05

She is the queen of all that is dead and dying.
She defeated Lucifer, the Father of Lies.
Millions tremble at the mere thought of her.

Lady Lost

Yet, at this very moment, drifting in The Unknown, Lady Death feels weaker, more vulnerable than ever. And none of this could have come at a more precarious time because Lady Death is about to take the first step on a dark journey of adventure, discovery and sacrifice, beyond Hell's cradle, into THE ODYSSEY.

She will encounter foes who desire nothing less than her very life: AGONY, the Fallen Angel who presides over a realm frozen in despair, MACABRE & MALADY, menacing twin druids with a connection to Heaven's highest order of Angels, The Seraphim, KALI, the Hindu Goddess of death and rebirth, and ASTEROTH, Lucifer's destroyer of destroyers.

Why is Lady Death at the rock bottom of the Abyss? Is it because her powers were vastly depleted during her battle with Lucifer? Is it because Hell is no longer her own? Or is it something deeper? What is she trying to deny?

All of us have a destiny we sometimes try to deny. But for Lady Death, the signs are all around her. The Judgment Era of The Fallen Angels has begun. Its implications are so vast, it's barely comprehensible. What is Lady Death's role in it all?

And when she learns her destiny, will she dare to embrace it?





Lady Death is ever a woman of contradictions, and with good reason: The blood of both angels and demons flow through her veins.

How did this come to be? How did a lonely girl from the middle ages become LADY DEATH, the ravishing seductress of the netherworld? Come along and learn a tale of DEATH.

Lady Death began her existence as Hope, daughter of the demonic feudal lord Matthias. Hope spent her days in sorrow. Her Father constantly beat her or was off on a bloody campaign in neighboring lands. One night Hope discovered her Father was in league with demons.

Matthias took the townsmen on bloody campaigns and sacrificed their souls to roguish archdukes of Hell. They planned to usurp the Father of Lies, LUCIFER. Soon the townspeople had enough. Banding together, they killed Matthias.

Hope was sentenced to burn at the stake as a witch. With no other recourse, she renounced her humanity to demons, believing she would be delivered from a heinous fate. But in truth, it was to Hell she traveled, to live among the eternally damned.

In Hell, she went through many trials. She encountered Matthias and he discarded Hope into an endless pit. How long she lay there, she did not know. Then out of the darkness Lucifer came. He revealed that in Hell, desire equals power. He wanted to give her great power. But Hope had been a puppet too long. She would not be a victim; she would take control!

Matthias tricked the roguish archdukes and led their army against Lucifer's. Meanwhile, Hope was transforming. Lucifer's lessons in power and desire were not lost on her. She met Cremator, blacksmith to the archdukes of Hell. Mesmerized by her, he forged her a great sword, forever known as Darkness.

Matthias plunged his sword deep into Lucifer, mortally wounding him. Then he absorbed all of Lucifer's considerable might. Then he learned his daughter still existed. His first official act as lord of Hell - he would destroy her!

Unshaken by the swarming armies approaching her, Hope declared herself Lady Death and marched forward to murder Matthias. While others would have relented, she endured. Hope proved to be her father's daughter. Underneath her calm exterior was a rage that is now legendary.

They battled, but the intervention of Hope's Mother's soul told her that they were all pawns to the truest of all evils. Armed with that knowledge, she forced Matthias-Lucifer to reveal the truth: her life was a game meant for Lucifer's amusement. He simply wanted to see if he could corrupt a child of light and produce a child of darkness.

Lady Death and Lucifer battled. She demanded her life back, he refused. Finally, she defeated Lucifer by recalling: in Hell, desire equals power. There was nothing she desired more than the end to his existence. And with that, she plunged her sword into his heart. Lucifer had made her too well.

Before Lady Death absorbed Lucifer's soul, the Prince of Lies cursed her. He proclaimed, "As long as the living walk, you can never, ever return to earth." Lady Death's reply, "If the living must die so I may return to earth, then they will die!



So Far

And I shall have their graves waiting!" And with that, she transformed Hell into the Endless Graveyard.

Later, Lady Death discovered her mother's soul was held captive by her former love, Niccolo. He was using her soul to access a gateway called The Nexus of All Things. Defeating Niccolo, she sent Marion's soul through Heaven's gate.

Many adventures not yet chronicled, followed.

Four hundred years later, Lady Death was on her way to achieving her goal of ending all life on earth, using her earthly emissary, Evil Ernie. She began questioning her past and the very foundation of her existence. Was it an unseen enemy or her subconscious gnawing at her?

Lady Death was well aware that she had chosen the dark path, but refused to have her innocent past marred. She learned that Purgatori, Lucifer's beloved, was behind the manipulations. She fanned the flames of Lady Death's discontent by reading her thoughts, then planting false memories. Purgatori intended to drain Lady Death's power and use it to free Lucifer's soul. And she managed to attempt just that. But she didn't expect what she discovered. Lucifer's soul was not trapped within Lady Death - it never was!

With his secret exposed, Lucifer ended his eons-long subterfuge and revealed his presence. To Lady Death's astonishment, Lucifer divulged that her reign in the Endless Graveyard - and in fact, her entire life - has been a grand manipulation! Tired of fighting, Lady Death completely surrendered to the ways of Hell and became Lady Demon, a child of darkness. Finally, Lucifer is satisfied.

Cremator, Lady Death's ally, lured Lady Demon out into the wilds of Hell. There she encountered the imprisoned soul of her Mother, Marion. Centuries ago, Purgatori grabbed her soul on the way to Heaven's gate. Marion pleads with Lady Death to absorb her angelic energy and use it to defeat Lucifer - or die trying. Reluctantly, she agrees.

In an epic battle, Lady Death fought Lucifer, but the angelic energies ebbing through her body were not enough. Fighting near the Nexus of All Things, Lady Death managed to summon the last of her strength and kick Lucifer through the Nexus and into Heaven's Gate - where only those worthy may pass. There was a resounding explosion as Lucifer scattered into a million points of light. Against all odds, Lady Death defeated Lucifer and become the true ruler of Hell and controller of her own destiny.

Murmuring among Hell's denizens insist that Lucifer's disappearance signaled the commencement of "The Judgment Era of The Fallen Angels."

But what did Lady Death inherit? True Hell didn't remotely resemble the Endless Graveyard and her vast realm-altering abilities appeared gone. Craving a sense of "home," Lady Death went to the Nexus to see if Lucifer's curse remained. But before she could test it, she was duped by Pagan, the Court Jester of Hell, and banished into The Unknown - an aspect of the Nexus where all theologies clash.

Recently, Lady Death was brought to Earth by her earthly emissary, Evil Ernie. But she learned that Lucifer's curse remained. Now back drifting in The Unknown, Lady Death wonders: "What is my destiny and will I ever find home again?"



Characters

As Lady Death plunges into The Unknown, she is thrust into many dangerous realms.



Mandala

The mysterious warrior goddess. Discovering Lady Death weakened beyond belief, she thrusts her into numerous dangerous realms. What are her intentions? Is she trying to teach Lady Death lessons to prepare her for challenges to come or does she simply want to kill her? And where exactly is she from? Hint: she comes from a realm where bravery, loyalty and generosity are the creed.



Agony

One of Heaven's deadliest fallen Angels, AGONY lords over a frozen tundra that was once a lush jungle. A hideous shape shifter, she is bitter over her ages old decision to leave Heaven. Since Lady Death has Angel's blood from absorbing her mother Marion's soul, when Agony encounters Lady Death, she believes her to be an archangel from Heaven sent to vanquish her.



Pandemonium

Once just another denizen of the night jungle, Pandemonium rose to command it after years of struggle. Its very essence flows through her and responds to all her whims. Even the tattoos on her body – all animal spirits – come to life at her calling. But AGONY usurped her and transformed the jungle to ice. Unable to conquer her on her own, she enlists Lady Death's aid. The question remains: will Lady Death knowingly "help" anyone?

Of Chaos!

Some beings she encounters are friends, some are foes. Sometimes it's tough to tell the difference.



Asteroth

Lucifer's destroyer of destroyers. Eons before Lady Death defeated Lucifer, he made sure that any harm that befell him would not go unpunished. To exact vengeance, he imparted the demon ASTEROTH with vast power. With a spell, Lucifer made Asteroth sleep, never to awaken unless the Father of Lies was conquered. In that event, Asteroth would be compelled by Lucifer's sorcery to rise and destroy his conqueror.



Macabre

Malady

Immensely powerful twin druids with a powerful connection to Heaven's highest order of Angels, the Seraphim. They are belligerent overlords of a magical desert realm called TELEMACH. While Malady wants Lady Death dead, Macabre fancies himself an artist. He wants to make Lady Death his... masterpiece.



Kali

The ancient hindu death goddess of destruction and life. Kali assumes the form of a three-armed, multi-headed ghoul who wields deadly weapons in each of her six arms. No doubt a chaotic goddess, Kali has been known to destroy demons and bring order. She believes that out of death comes rebirth, and it is all part of a universal cycle. Ultimately her motive may be unfathomable for Kali is a living dichotomy, representing chaos and order at once. She views Lady Death as the perfect subject for ritual sacrifice and rebirth.

Birth Of

At Chaos!, when we create a comic book page we have to follow a number of steps to complete a page. Here's how it goes:

1 Plot

We start with a plot that explains what is supposed to occur on the page. Typically, the plot includes camera position, lighting and where the character is at emotionally. But that's not all. There may be color directions or ideas for little details. Here, Brian goes into detail about the barbarian's looks.

LADY DEATH: THE ODYSSEY: #1 "CROSSROADS" BRIAN PULIDO/CIA

PLOT

PAGE 24

PANEL 1: Silver panel. Low angle looking up. We see the silhouette of a group of pirates. A noose is being thrown out overboard toward Lady Death.

PANEL 2: 450s Splash page. Low angle looking up as we see Pirate Captain pulling up on the noose. He's caught Lady Death around the neck and is pulling her up. She's lucky because she managed to get her hands around the noose before it choked her. She's struggling against it. We see her agony. But Pirate Captain has the upper hand.

Behind him, other laughing pirates.

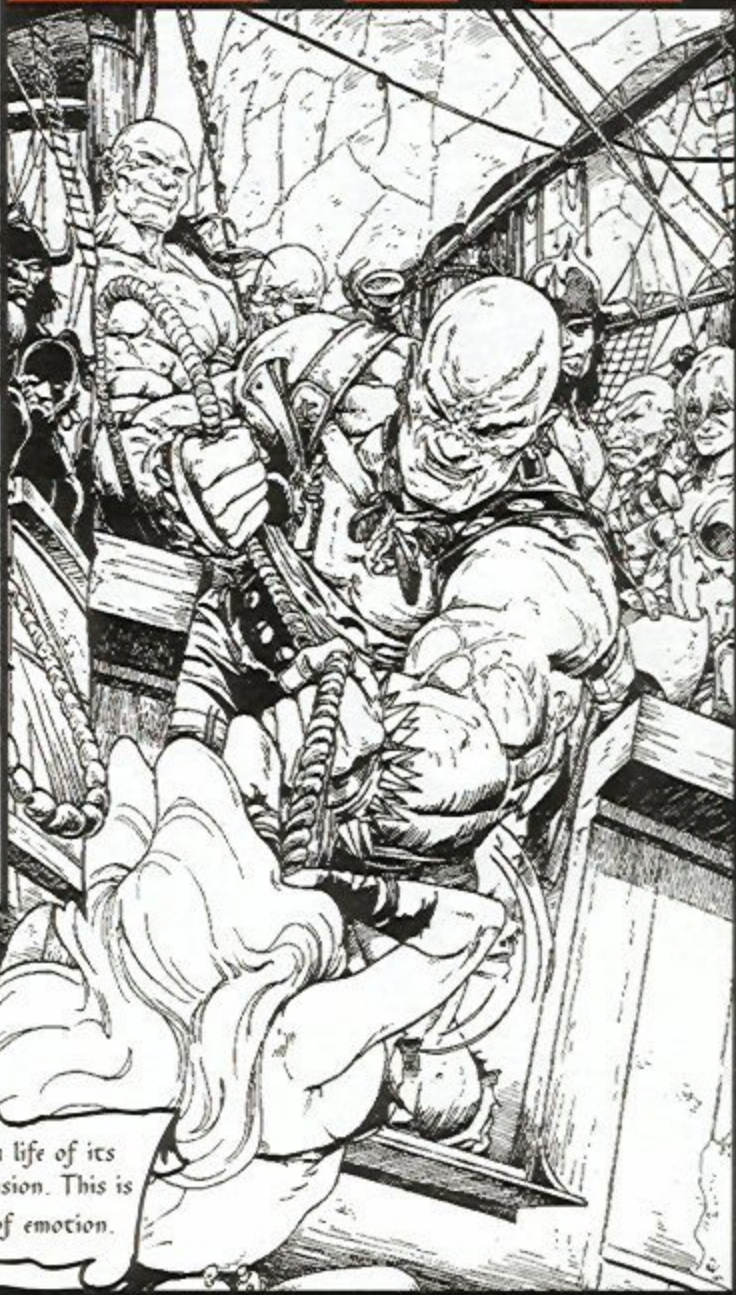
The sails of the pirate ship are made of HUMAN skin. Primitive/Tribal death motif to the ship.

NOTE ABOUT THESE PIRATES: These guys and gals are positively from the dark ages. No romantic notions of piracy here. They have adapted to life on the open "desert seas". They are truly horrific looking. Both the men and women are mostly built big and tough - Arnold size. Women look like champion female body builders. They are mostly bald or have Gene Simmons like hairdos or Hari Krishna. Women have long hair. Lots of old wounds, scars on their bodies. They are just scary to look at. They all have weapons. They are turned people but of all races. They are dirty too.

Naturally, Pirate Captain is the fiercest of all. He is biggest and has most scars.

2 Pencils

The penciler, or in this case, the illustrator, then lays out the page. Pencilers full pencil the page, laying the groundwork for the inker. Steven Hughes inks his own stuff, so he tends to be sketchy, leaving the detail of the inks. Additionally, Steven is a very intuitive artist, always looking for the "heart" of a scene or a panel. It's here that you begin to see the emotional intensity of the plot conveyed.



3 Inks

At the inking stage, the illustration is fully rendered. The page begins to have a life of its own. Inking brings out the lights and darks on a page, giving it depth and dimension. This is where Steven's work shines. Notice how the characters display such a variety of emotion.

A Page

4) Script

Getting a good look at the page, Brian scripts the page. It's almost like a new starting point. Something Steven may put on the page will excite whole new possibilities on how the script will turn out. Brian tries to see each character's point of view while scripting, so each has an individual voice.

LADY DEATH: THE ODYSSEY: #1 "CROSSROADS" BRIAN PULIDO CHAOS!

PAGE 24

SCRIPT

PANEL 1: Silver panel. Low angle looking up. We see the silhouette of a group of pirates. A noose is being thrown out overboard toward Lady Death.

PIRATE: (1) Well, well!

PANEL 2: 4/5th Splash page. Low angle looking up as we see Pirate Captain pulling up on the noose. He's caught Lady Death around the neck and is pulling her up. She's lucky because she managed to get her hands around the noose before it choked her. She's struggling against it. We see her agony. But Pirate Captain has the upper hand.

Behind him, other laughing pirates.

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Naturally, Pirate Captain is the fiercest of all. He is biggest and has most scars.

PIRATE: (2) Look what we GOT here!

PIRATE CAP: (3) Quite a catch, eh!

PIRATE: (4) She'll make a fine SLAVE!!

CAPTION: (4) (BIG AND BOLD) NEXT: ENSLAVED!

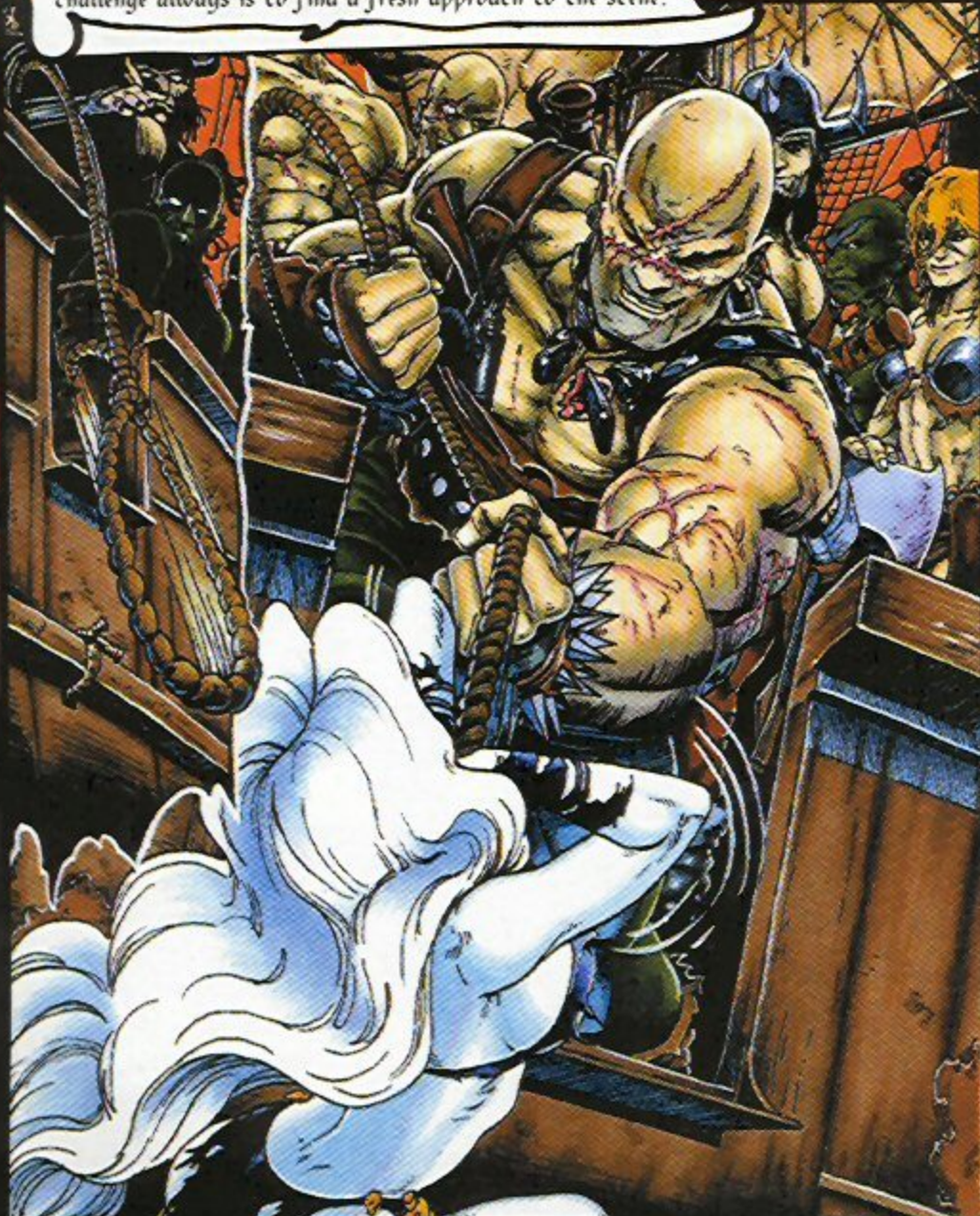
6) Balloon Placement

Brian places the balloons for the letterer. Where they are on a page determines where the reader's eye will go.



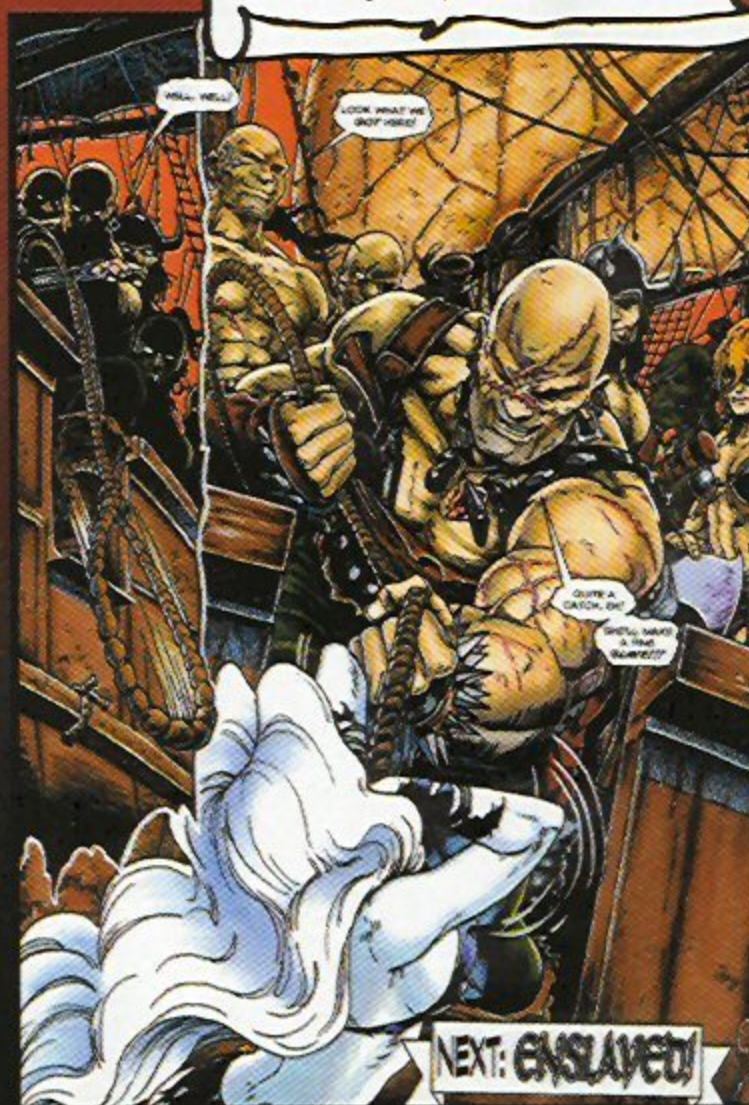
5) Color

Jason Jensen hand colors all his pages at Chaos! Working with Brian and Steven, but mostly using his own intuition, colors are worked out for the scene and characters. Jason doesn't like to repeat himself, so the challenge always is to find a fresh approach to the scene.



7) Letters

The final stage that influences the reader's experience. Each character gets a different lettering style. Some words are "bolded"; others are made into sound effects. Chaos! goes for wild lettering occasionally so the reader can get deeper into the characters.



Lady Death



LADY DEATH THE ODYSSEY #1

Wraparound Sculptured
Embossed Cover
Shipping March 1996



LADY DEATH THE ODYSSEY #2

Shipping April 1996

Cover Gallery

By Steven Hughes and Jason Jensen

LADY DEATH THE ODYSSEY #4

Shipping July 1996



LADY DEATH THE ODYSSEY #3

Shipping May 1996

PREVIEW PAGE:

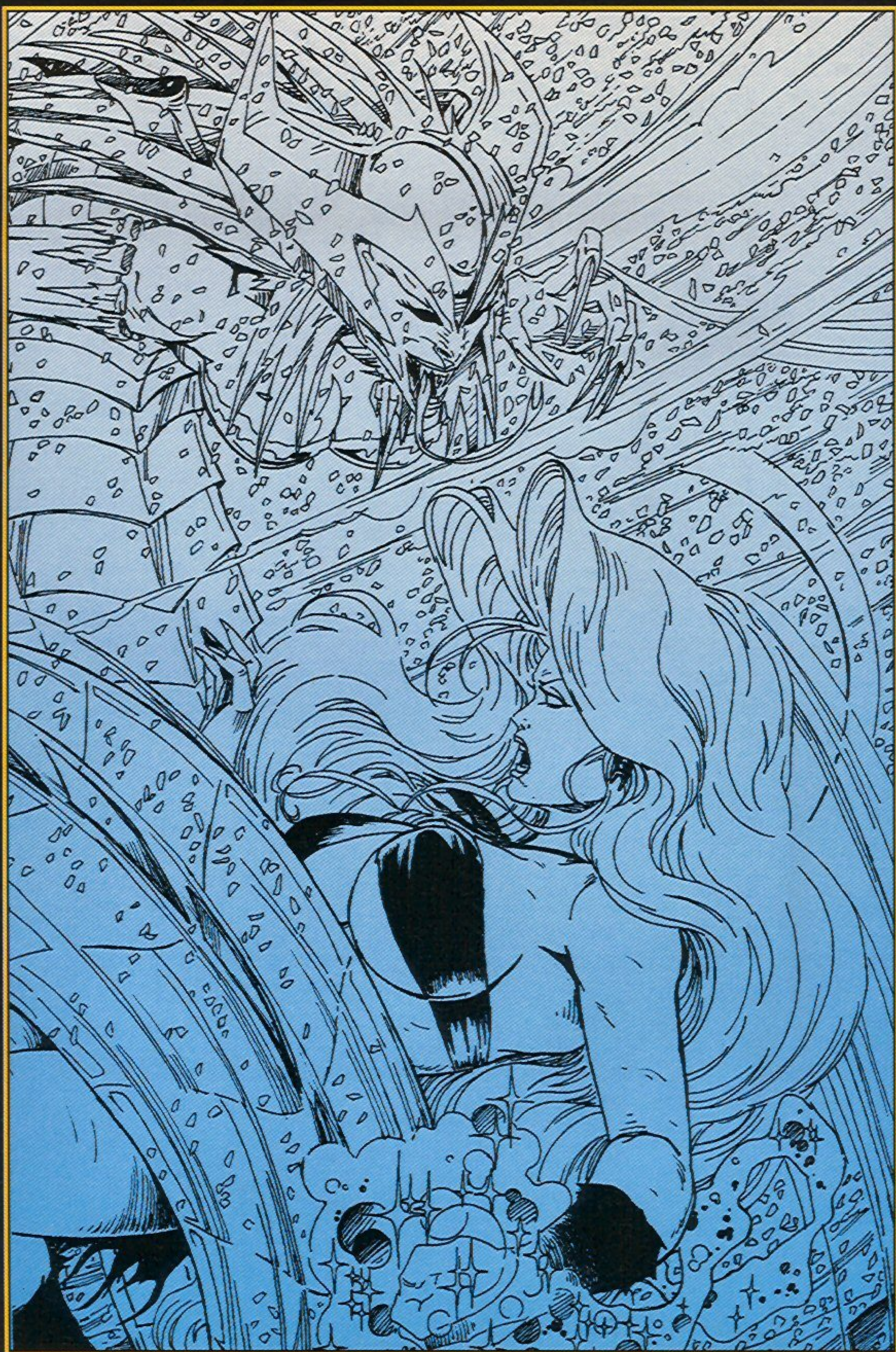
LADY DEATH
Queen of The Jungle?



In this scene, from *Lady Death: The Odyssey #1*, the ravishing seductress is banished to a frozen tundra, but everywhere she goes, the ice melts and reveals a jungle. Why?

PREVIEW PAGE:

LADY DEATH
vs. AGONY



From Lady Death: The Odyssey #1 - Amid a blinding blizzard, Lady Death is attacked by Agony. How can Lady Death, severely weakened, defeat a foe at the peak of her powers?

PREVIEW PAGE:

LADY DEATH
Enslaved!



In *Lady Death: The Odyssey #2*, the diva of death is captured by a band of marauding pirates intent on selling her at a slave auction. Now wait. Lady Death defeated Lucifer. How can this be?

PREVIEW PAGE: **LADY DEATH** Encounters The Women of Myth



In Lady Death: The Odyssey #2, a bizarre turn of events leads Lady Death to encounter the women of myth.

MAKING THE MYTHS

Join us on a dark quest inside the minds that make Lady Death - creator/writer *BRIAN PULIDO*, illustrator *STEVEN HUGHES* and colorist *JASON JENSEN*.

Q: Lady Death seems to be in a lot of trouble this mini-series.

BRIAN: You can say that again.

Q: So far, how does *The Odyssey* differ from the earlier Lady Death series?

BRIAN: Lady Death wants to find home, peace. She believes she's at the end of her journey as a character, but the truth is, she's barely begun. In each visit, she learns more about the concept "The Judgment Era of The Fallen Angels." By the series end, she'll have a pretty good idea that she has no choice but to become involved in it.

STEVEN: "THE ODYSSEY" storyline is a tale of Lady Death finding herself, of finding out WHO she



is and who she's to become. The first two series focused on how she became, while *The Odyssey* is about her getting to know herself.

BRIAN: Know her destiny as a warrior.

Q: Guys, what's your formal artistic training?

JASON: I had one year at junior college and learned fast that college was not for me. Too many rules. Then I worked for two years at a company that made model airplanes. I designed logos and printed decals. My best training was in high school. For four years I took as many art classes as possible.

BRIAN: I graduated from NYU film school. I was always writing stories, but keeping them to myself. Most of my storytelling training came about when I worked in the film business as an assistant director. I worked closely with directors. At night and on weekends, I studied everything related to storytelling.

STEVEN: Training? I'm a natural born illustrator.

Q: How do you approach tackling a comic book page?

STEVEN: I'd approach it as you would approach a movie layout. In my head, everything's moving: the lighting, the background, the people in the background.

JASON: I ask myself: How can I make this the BEST piece I've EVER done. How can I make this piece exciting to the reader? It doesn't matter if I like the page or not, my job is to breathe life into the piece and make it as exciting as possible.

BRIAN: Colorists are underappreciated in this industry. They should have a top ten list for colorists. Jason would dominate.

Q: What gives you the most joy when you create? Is it a pleasurable experience for you?

JASON: What gives me the most pleasure is working with different artists and deciding col-

ors for a new Chaos! character. I also enjoy other projects I'm given at Chaos! For example, doing the art prep on special covers. Deciding where velvet goes or chromium.

Working for Chaos! is like working for Disney. I get to make pages come alive, but I get to use LOTS of blood doing it.

I also enjoy working with Mike Flippin, our graphics designer. We've worked on ad layouts and deciding colors for things. Mike's graphics \$\$\$! rule! He kicks &%% in the back of every issue we do.

BRIAN: Writing is a very private, challenging experience. I get the most pleasure when I'm working instinctually - getting to the heart of a story. Is it pleasurable? I can think of only one thing in life that's better.

STEVEN: The most joy? Finishing a storyline. And drawing is a very pleasurable experience - like breathing. I get to vent on paper.

Q: There appears to be more to Lady Death than her anatomy, swords and violence. Can you explain?

BRIAN: Lady Death's story is the center point of a grand, mythological saga. We've only begun to show you what's to come. As a character, she's in her infancy. Right now, she's steeped in her own personal purgatory - letting her past control her present. Hell has been a "cradle" for her. Now she has to confront the unknown. She must go beyond.

STEVEN: She's a strong female. She's very sure of herself. She uses her sexuality as muscle. She's a woman who



doesn't need the support of a male to make her feel whole.

Q: How does Lady Death differ from your run-of-the-mill "Bad Girl" book?

BRIAN: Since Chaos! had a hand in starting this genre - I prefer to call it "Femme Fatales" - I had the advantage of having a mapped out purpose for the character prior to it being trendy to do so. This isn't a cash-in move for me or the Chaos! crew. This is the story we want to tell.

STEVEN: Lady Death is not a bad GIRL. She's a femme fatale, an empowered WOMAN. A diva of deceit and cunning.

Q: What is your take on the "Bad Girl" phenomenon?

STEVEN: Bull#%&*. Good girl art had been around for a long time, and I'm just one of the people who hopes to continue the great tradition - but phenomenon? I don't think so. By the way, who coined the phrase "Bad Girls" anyway? I thought we were just doing a good comic book.

JASON: It's turned the spotlight on Lady Death. When people read the incredible story and discover she's not just a pretty woman with a sword, they want to know more and will continue reading it long after the "Bad Girl" thing is dead and gone. The other so called "Bad Girl" books will be cluttering the shelves and quarter bins.

BRIAN: My take is that too many people are jumping on the band wagon and trying to wring it dry, just like what happened with those super hero universes a few years ago.

When the dust settles, those who really want to tell these stories will remain and the posers will be out sucking the new craze dry.

Q: What lies beyond "The Odyssey" for Lady Death?

BRIAN: Assuming she lives through the trials I'll be putting her through, "THE CRUCIBLE" is the next storyline. In that one, we will learn more about Lady Death's origin - thought you knew it all? not even close - and "The Judgment Era" concept will come more into focus! But when it does, the burden of responsibility rests squarely on Lady Death's shoulders.



Lady Death®